

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/697,679

Examiner

Huan Hoang

Applicant(s)

MELLINGER ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

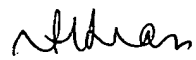
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Huan Hoang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2827

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 4, line 7, before "drain", insert --the--.

Claim 7, line 10, before "drain", insert --the--; and

line 9, replace "where in" with --wherein the--.

Claim 8, line 11, replace "where in" with --wherein the--.

Claim 10, line 10, before "drain", insert --the--; and

line 12, before "drain", insert --the--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-10 recite a system for reducing power in memory cells and a method for manufacturing a circuit for reducing power in memory cells.

The prior art does not teach or suggest the following limitations:

" wherein the input is connected to a wordline of the memory cells;

wherein the output is connected to a positive voltage supply node of the memory cells;

wherein a first voltage applied to the output is reduced by at least one V_t from a supply voltage, VDD, when the wordline is inactive;

wherein a second voltage applied to the output is near the supply voltage, VDD, when the wordline is active.”;

“ wherein the input of the inverter is connected to a wordline of the memory cells;

wherein the output of the inverter is connected to the gate of the PFET;

wherein the source of the PFET, the gate of the NFET, and drain of the NFET are connected to the supply voltage, VDD;

wherein the drain of the PFET and the source of the NFET are connected to a positive voltage supply node of the memory cells.”;

“ wherein the gate of the first NFET is connected to the wordline of the memory cells;

wherein the drain and the source of the first NFET is connected to the source of the second NFET and to the gate of the third NFET;

wherein the drain of the second NFET, the gate of the second NFET, the drain of the third NFET, the drain of the fourth NFET, and the gate of the fourth NFET are connected to the supply voltage, VDD;

wherein the source of the third NFET, and the source of the fourth NFET are connected to a positive voltage supply node of the memory cells.”;

and

“ wherein the input of the inverter is connected to an active low wordline;

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wherein the output of the inverter is connected to a local wordline of the memory cells;

wherein the source of the PFET, the gate of the NFET, and the drain of the NFET are connected to the supply voltage, VDD;

wherein the drain of the PFET and the source of the NFET are connected to a positive voltage supply node of the memory cells."

Therefore, the application is in condition for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huan Hoang whose telephone number is (571) 272-1779. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoai Ho can be reached on (571) 272-1777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Huan Hoang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2827

HH
5/15/05.